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VEGETABLE SITUATION

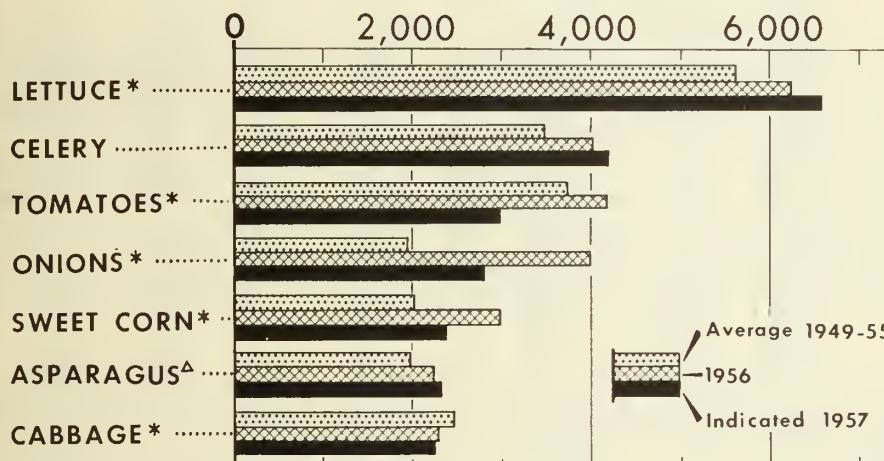
TVS-124

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



SPRING PRODUCTION OF FRESH VEGETABLES

THOUS. HUNDREDWEIGHT



BASED ON REPORTS TO APRIL 1, 1957

* EARLY SPRING ONLY

△ EARLY SPRING AND MID-SPRING

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 4154-57 (4) AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

Early reports on 18 vegetables for fresh market sale, which make up about half of total spring tonnage, indicate that aggregate production of these crops is likely to be down about 8 percent from 1956. Substantial reductions from a year earlier are in prospect for early

spring sweet corn, onions, and tomatoes, and a slight reduction for cabbage. Slight to moderate increases in tonnage are in prospect for early spring lettuce, early- and mid-spring asparagus and spring celery.

Table 1.- Vegetables for fresh market: Reported commercial acreage and production average 1949-55, annual 1956, and indicated 1957

Seasonal group and crop	Acreage						Production					
				Indicated 1957						Indicated 1957		
	7-year average: 1949-55:	1956	Acres	Percent of average	Percent of 1956	7-year average: 1949-55:	1956	Production: 1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.	Percent of average	Percent of 1956
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Pct.	Pct.			1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.	Pct.	Pct.
Winter: 1/	265,290	268,090	250,360	94	93	30,746	34,097	29,578	111	111	87	
Spring:												
Asparagus												
early and mid 1/	82,660	89,070	90,170	109	101	1,991	2,241	2,339	117	117	104	
late 1/	53,390	64,040	66,600	125	104	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Beans, lima	5,460	3,900	3,700	68	95	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Beans, snap,												
early and mid	39,990	28,900	28,700	72	99	1,035	789	823	80	80	104	
Beets	1,040	880	800	77	91	108	94	84	78	78	89	
Broccoli 1/ 2/	9,940	13,000	14,200	143	109	599	923	852	142	142	92	
Cabbage												
early 1/	20,440	17,300	16,000	78	92	2,468	2,298	2,243	91	91	98	
late 1/	10,130	9,700	10,150	100	105	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Cantaloups	38,700	49,000	41,000	106	84	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Carrots	2,760	2,400	1,800	65	75	585	432	360	62	62	83	
Cauliflower 2/	7,140	6,200	7,900	111	127	1,156	1,023	1,224	106	106	120	
Celery	6,470	7,000	7,700	119	110	3,490	4,004	4,190	120	120	105	
Corn, sweet 2/	32,910	34,500	30,800	94	89	2,040	2,982	2,398	117	117	80	
Cucumbers 2/	10,860	10,100	12,100	111	120	836	840	865	103	103	103	
Eggplant	1,210	1,100	1,300	107	118	139	132	150	108	108	114	
Lettuce 2/	47,290	44,900	49,550	105	110	5,615	6,279	6,595	117	117	105	
Onions,												
early	35,830	50,000	30,000	84	60	1,957	4,000	2,790	143	143	70	
late	15,680	9,750	16,100	103	165	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Peas, green 2/	7,710	4,400	3,200	42	73	255	134	112	44	44	84	
Peppers, green	8,060	7,500	7,800	97	104	512	502	390	76	76	78	
Shallots	2,310	2,600	2,300	100	88	63	78	51	81	81	65	
Spinach	10,970	7,700	7,300	67	95	691	508	471	68	68	93	
Tomatoes 2/	55,970	54,500	40,500	72	74	3,746	4,174	2,961	79	79	71	
Watermelons												
late	84,460	99,700	106,100	126	106	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Summer:												
Cabbage												
early 1/	9,120	8,090	7,830	86	97	---	---	---	---	---	---	
late 1/	23,140	20,650	19,850	86	96	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Garlic	2,290	2,400	2,300	100	96	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Onions												
early	6,750	7,150	9,550	141	134	---	---	---	---	---	---	
late	61,600	56,740	59,390	96	105	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Watermelons												
early	288,740	284,700	317,300	110	111	---	---	---	---	---	---	
late	22,950	27,300	26,500	115	97	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Fall:												
Cabbage												
early 1/	43,810	41,050	36,000	82	88	---	---	---	---	---	---	

1/ Includes processing.

2/ Acreage and production for early spring only.

- - - - THE VEGETABLE SITUATION - - - -

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, April 23, 1957

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SUMMARY

Aggregate supplies of vegetables for fresh market sale are expected to be significantly smaller this spring than last. Biggest reductions in tonnage, compared with a year ago are in prospect for early spring sweet corn, onions and tomatoes, and spring peppers and shallots. Substantially smaller output is also expected for early spring broccoli and green peas, and for spring beets, carrots, and spinach. On the other hand, early spring cauliflower and spring eggplant promise to be in substantially larger supply than a year ago, and early spring cucumbers and lettuce, early- and mid-spring asparagus and snap beans, and spring celery in slightly to moderately larger supply.

Indications are that economic activity will remain at a high level, with continued strong demand for food. If supplies of fresh market vegetables should be about in line with current indications, prices received by growers are likely to average at least as high in early spring as last year. But prices in late spring probably will average materially below those of a year earlier, when movement to market was curtailed because of cool weather and delayed maturity.

Acreage of cantaloups for spring harvest is down 16 percent from a year earlier, while acreage of watermelons is 6 percent larger. Indicated acreage of watermelons in early summer is up about a tenth from 1956, while prospective acreage for late summer harvest is down 3 percent.

Processed vegetables are in plentiful to burdensome supply, with most major items in moderately to substantially larger supply this spring than last. Many packers were caught in a cost-price squeeze on the 1956 pack.

This and the prospect of larger carryover stocks at the end of the current season are causing processors to plan a smaller pack in 1957. Intentions reports as of April 1 indicate that processors plan to cut 1957 acreage of 8 important crops by 3 percent. Current indications are that acreage of cabbage for kraut (contract acreage only) will be cut 11 percent, sweet corn and green peas 3 percent, beets for canning 7 percent, and tomatoes 11 percent. Acreage of winter and early spring spinach was slightly larger this year than last, and indications are that acreage of snap beans will be up about 7 percent, and acreage of cucumbers for pickles up 10 percent. If yields and abandonment should be near the average of recent years, aggregate production on the indicated acreage would be substantially smaller than last year.

More potatoes probably will be available for market this spring than last. Available data indicate that storage supplies of fall crop potatoes are significantly larger than a year ago. In addition, acreage and indicated production of potatoes for early spring harvest are larger than last year. Acreage for late spring harvest is also up. Prices of potatoes into early summer are expected to remain substantially below those of a year earlier, because of the heavier prospective supplies.

Growers in the 33 late summer and fall states may again plant too many potatoes. Early March reports indicate that producers are likely to cut acreage only 2 percent. Even if yields go down a little, best estimates are that potatoes will again be in surplus supply, and prices relatively low.

Intentions reports indicate a continuation of the long-time downward trend in the sweetpotato acreage and production. Intended plantings are the lowest of record and a fourth below the 1949-55 average. However, demand for sweetpotatoes is declining and despite lower prospective production, prices in the 1957-58 season are not expected to be above the 1949-55 average, but probably will be at least moderately higher than in the 1956-57 season.

Farmers plan to plant a few more dry beans in 1957 but slightly fewer peas than in 1956. If yields should be near the 1946-55 average, dry beans will be in somewhat smaller but still adequate supply with pea beans likely to continue in surplus supply. Supply of peas would be almost as large as in the 1956-57 season, primarily because of heavy carryover stocks. Under these conditions, prices of beans in the 1957-58 season are likely to average the same to slightly higher than a year earlier, and peas lower.

COMMERCIAL VEGETABLES

Overall Prospects

For Fresh Vegetables: Supplies of fresh vegetables are likely to be significantly smaller this spring than last, but somewhat larger than the 1949-55 average. Tonnage of 7 spring vegetables plus 11 early and mid-spring crops, on which production estimates were available in early April, is expected

to be about 8 percent less than in the spring of 1956, but 6 percent above the 1949-55 average. The smaller tonnage compared with a year earlier is due principally to reduced acreage. Average yields are expected to be near those of last spring. These 18 crops typically make up about half of total spring output for fresh market sale.

Compared with last spring, biggest reductions in tonnage are in prospect for early spring sweet corn, onions, and tomatoes, and for spring peppers and shallots. Materially smaller output is also expected for early spring broccoli and green peas and for spring beets, carrots, and spinach. Substantial increases in production are indicated for early spring cauliflower and spring eggplant. Small to moderate increases are in prospect for early spring cucumbers and lettuce, for early- and mid-spring asparagus and snap beans, and spring celery. Although production estimates are not yet available for lima beans, cantaloups, and watermelons, acreage of lima beans is moderately smaller than last spring, acreage of cantaloups is substantially smaller, while acreage of watermelons is moderately larger.

Early reports indicate a substantially larger acreage of watermelons for early summer harvest than a year ago, but a slightly smaller acreage for late summer harvest. Indications are that acreages of onions for early summer harvest will be substantially larger than a year ago, and acreage for late summer harvest moderately larger. Indicated acreages of both early- and late summer cabbage are a little smaller this year than last. Also, growers' intentions in early April point to a 12 percent smaller acreage of cabbage for early fall harvest this year than last and 18 percent less than the 1949-55 average.

Despite a lower level of activity in some sectors of the economy than a year earlier -- notably residential construction, lumber output, coal production, and major household goods -- overall economic activity remains at a high level. With consumer income during the next few months likely to remain at or near record high levels, demand for food, including vegetables is expected to continue strong. Thus, prices received by farmers for fresh market vegetables, compared with a year earlier, will depend largely on the overall volume produced and marketed, the seasonal pattern of harvest, and competition from processed vegetables. A number of important fresh vegetables will continue to face unusually stiff competition from processed items. If supplies of vegetables for spring harvest are about in line with current indications and pattern of harvest is not seriously distorted, prices to producers probably will average at least as high in early spring as in 1956. But prices in late spring are expected to be substantially below those of a year earlier, when supplies were curtailed because of cool weather and delayed maturity.

For Processed Vegetables: Carryover of processed vegetables at the beginning of the 1957 pack year promises to be much heavier than the relatively light supplies of a year earlier, and moderately to substantially above the 1949-55 average. Among major canned items, latest data available indicate that stocks of sweet corn and tomato juice are much larger than a year ago, and green peas and tomatoes moderately larger. Canners' stocks

of snap beans on March 1 were a little smaller than a year earlier. For other canned items on which data are available, indicated stocks of lima beans, beets, carrots, pumpkin and squash, sauerkraut, spinach, tomato catsup and most other tomato products are larger than a year ago. Stocks of frozen vegetables in commercial cold storage on April 1 amounted to 654 million pounds, 45 percent more than a year earlier. About 38 percent of the increased holdings were accounted for by the larger stocks of green peas. Among other items, largest percentage increases over a year earlier occurred in holdings of peas and carrots, french fried potatoes, asparagus, cauliflower, mixed vegetables, Brussels sprouts and broccoli, but holdings were also substantially larger for all other items.

Consumer demand is expected to continue strong into the new pack year. But with the larger supplies of processed vegetables available, prices of many important items, during the remainder of the current season, are expected to average lower than a year earlier. With many processors caught in a price-cost squeeze on the large 1956 pack, and larger carryover stocks in prospect, canners are expected to plan a smaller pack in 1957. Some frozen items, will be put up in smaller quantities than in 1956. Both home and institutional markets are expanding, however, and another record or near record pack is likely. Although processors are expected to plant or contract a smaller acreage of a number of important vegetables, the increased pack in 1956 resulted largely from high average yields.

The Department of Agriculture in its acreage-marketing guide, released in February, recommended for 1957 a total acreage of vegetables for processing 8 percent smaller than the 1956 acreage, with the objective of about a fourth less tonnage. Intentions reports as of April 1, indicate that processors plan to cut acreage this year, but not as much as suggested in the guide. Acreage intentions reports are now available for 8 vegetables for commercial processing -- snap beans, beets for canning, cabbage for kraut, (contract acreage only) sweet corn, cucumbers for pickles, green peas, winter and early spring spinach, and tomatoes. Combined prospective acreage of these 8 crops, which make up about 95 percent of the tonnage of the 10 crops regularly reported, is down 3 percent from that of 1956. These represent only tentative indications of intentions. Several factors, including these intentions reports, may cause processors to modify their plans for the 1957 pack.

Early Prospects for Major Items

Celery

Supplies of celery moving to market during the first three months of 1957 were consistently below the relatively heavy movement of a year earlier, and prices have averaged significantly higher. However, in early April shipments were heavier than a year ago, and indications are that supplies during the next 2 months probably will continue to be moderately larger than last

spring. Prices during this period are likely to average below those of a year earlier. Reports in early April indicate plantings of celery for spring harvest of 7,700 acres, 10 percent more than in 1956, with most of the increase occurring in Florida. Indications are that yields will run moderately below 1956, with prospective production about 5 percent larger than last spring and a fifth above the 1949-55 average.

Information is not available as to the probable acreage or production of celery for summer or fall harvest. Last year the important early summer production was about one-third larger than the 1949-55 average. These large supplies weighed heavily on market prices. In California, where acreage and production had been increased sharply, about a fifth of the crop was not marketed. In view of production-price relationships in recent years, the Department acreage-marketing guide recommends for 1957 a planted acreage 20 percent less than in 1956 in California and no change in other States. The goal is a production 16 percent less than in 1956, but 11 percent above the 1949-55 average. For the less important, and declining, late summer crop the guide suggest a planted acreage equal to 1956 with the objective of 5 percent less production. The Department recommends a 5 percent cut in acreage and a slight cut in production of early fall celery, and a 10 percent cut in both acreage and production of the important late fall crop.

Lettuce

Lettuce movement in the early weeks of 1957 was substantially below that of 1956, and prices were about double the very low levels of a year earlier. During most of February and early March, however, shipments were heavier than last year and increasing, with the result that prices declined sharply. Prices during the first half of March averaged only \$2.50 per hundredweight compared with \$3.80 a year earlier and the 1949-55 average of \$4.43. In late March - early April shipments and prices fluctuated widely, but prices in early April generally were below those of 1956.

During the next 6 to 8 weeks, indications are that lettuce will be in moderately heavier supply than a year earlier, and prices may average somewhat lower than last year. Early spring production, which usually accounts for more than three-fourths of total spring output, is tentatively estimated at 6.6 million hundredweight. This is about 5 percent more than the large crop of 1956 and 17 percent above the 1949-55 average. Although there were acreage increases in North Carolina and California, practically all of the increase in prospective production is due to a significant increase in acreage in the Salt River Valley of Arizona.

Complete data are not available on probable acreage of lettuce for late spring and summer harvest. But reports on acreage planted for June harvest in the Salinas-Watsonville District of California indicate that June supplies from that area are likely to be materially smaller than a year earlier. Following the very favorable prices received in the 1955 season, all summer States except Maine increased acreage in 1956. Production set

a new record, and prices were very low. The guide recommends for 1957 a 15 percent reduction in planted acreage in California and Colorado, and the same acreage for all other States. The goal is a production 12 percent below 1956 but 3 percent above the 1949-55 average. The acreage guide suggests the same acreage and a moderately larger production than last year for early fall, but a cut of about 10 percent in acreage and production for late fall harvest.

Onions

Acreage of onions, in Texas, for early spring harvest was cut 40 percent from the 1956 record. But the reduction occurred primarily in drought-stricken dry-farm areas, with an expansion of acreage in the higher yielding irrigated sections. As a result, higher average yields are anticipated and production, although 30 percent below the 1956 record, is expected to be 43 percent above the 1949-55 average.

The smaller crop of early spring onions has been moving in volume since late March, at prices substantially above the low levels of a year earlier. However, indications are that during the late spring and early summer supplies are likely to be substantially heavier and prices much lower than the relatively high levels of a year earlier. Acreage planted for late spring harvest is about 65 percent above the small 1956 acreage and 3 percent more than the 1949-55 average. Indicated acreage for early summer harvest is also up a third from last year and 41 percent above average. Yields near the average of recent years on the indicated acreage, would result in substantially larger supplies than a year earlier in both late spring and early summer.

Intentions reports indicate that producers of onions for late summer harvest, the crop which accounts for about three-fourths of our annual supply, plan to plant an acreage 5 percent larger than last year. Substantial increases in acreage are indicated in New York and Kansas, with moderate increases in prospect for Ohio, Indiana, Nebraska and all of the Western States except Utah. The only substantial decline indicated for an important State is in Minnesota, where a considerable reduction is expected in the Red River Valley. On the basis of 1953-56 average yields, production on the indicated acreage would be about in line with that of 1956. Production at this level would be substantially above that recommended by the Department, and probably would result in relatively low prices to producers.

Cantaloups

Demand has been strong for cantaloups during the past few years and despite increased production over the years, prices have averaged slightly to moderately higher. Indications are that acreage of cantaloups for spring harvest is 16 percent smaller than last year, but 6 percent above the 1949-55 average. Acreage is down sharply from a year earlier in Arizona and

California and down substantially in Florida. Early acreage in South Florida is in poor to fair condition. Shortage of moisture has hurt some areas in Texas, but much of the acreage is irrigated and growing conditions have been fairly favorable. If yields should be near the 1953-56 average, production would be about a tenth less than a year ago but moderately above the 1949-55 average. Prices this spring are expected to average above those of a year earlier.

No data are available on probable acreage or production of cantaloups for summer harvest. However, in view of the reasonably satisfactory season last summer, the Department has recommended for early summer the same planted acreage in Georgia and South Carolina as in 1956. In Arizona a 20 percent increase in acreage is suggested, if it appears that crown blight can be effectively controlled. The guide recommends the same acreage as in 1956 for both mid- and late summer harvest. The suggested acreages, with yields near the average of recent years, would result in substantially more cantaloups for early summer harvest, but slightly less production for mid- and late summer.

Watermelons

Early reports indicate continued expansion in acreage of late spring watermelons. Acreage of melons for late spring harvest is up 6 percent from a year earlier with expanded acreage in Florida more than offsetting a decline in California. However, because of excessive rains in Florida and accompanying disease problems, production is expected to be below that of last spring. If anticipated production materializes, prices this spring are expected to average at least moderately above both a year earlier and the 1949-55 average.

Growers on March 1 indicated that they planned to plant 317,300 acres to the important early summer crop. This is an increase of 11 percent over 1956, with increases in all States except Mississippi, Louisiana, Arizona, and California, each of which reported the same acreage as last year. If yields and abandonment should be near the average of recent years, production on the indicated acreage would be substantially larger than either last year or average.

Growers are expected to plant 26,500 acres of watermelons for late summer harvest, 3 percent less than in 1956, but 15 percent more than the 1949-55 average. Near average yields and abandonment on this acreage would result in a production moderately to substantially less than last year, but much larger than the 1949-55 average.

Cabbage

Fresh: During the first few months of 1957 shipments of cabbage for fresh market sale have been substantially lighter than a year earlier, and prices at shipping points have averaged considerably higher. Indications

are that supplies of cabbage during the remainder of the spring season are likely to be about the same as a year ago. Estimated production of early spring cabbage, which typically makes up about two-thirds of the total spring tonnage, is down about 2 percent from a year earlier, with most of the reduction in Louisiana and South Georgia. Acreage of the late spring crop is up about 8 percent from last year, but yields near the 1952-56 average would result in a tonnage only slightly larger than last year. Average prices received by growers during the next 6 to 8 weeks are expected to remain above those of a year earlier, when there was a serious overlap from crops planted for earlier harvest.

Intentions reports indicate that acreage of cabbage for both early- and late summer harvest is likely to be down moderately from last year. Yields and abandonment near the average of recent years on the indicated acreage, would result in substantially smaller supplies in early summer than last year and slightly larger supplies in late summer. Producers of the important early fall crop plan to plant 36,000 acres of cabbage, including cabbage for kraut. This is 12 percent less than last year and 18 percent below the 1949-55 average. Most of the indicated decrease from a year earlier is due to smaller acreages in Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, and New York, states which produce substantial quantities for kraut. Prospective acreage of Danish cabbage in New York State, the leading producer of this type, is down 14 percent from last fall, and a fourth below the 1949-55 average. Acreage of Danish type cabbage is not reported separately in any other State. However, the relatively low prices received for fresh market cabbage last fall and for Danish or storage cabbage this winter probably will result in less acreage of both domestic and Danish types.

Processed: Supplies of sauerkraut have been much heavier this season than last, and prices to canners have averaged moderately to substantially lower. Despite a good rate of movement, stocks on hand March 1 were well above the low levels of a year earlier, and also above the 1949-55 average.

Processors are allowing for these heavy stocks and reportedly plan to plant or contract 11 percent less acreage than last year and 5 percent less than the 1946-55 average. Yields near the 1952-56 average on the indicated acreage would result in a production about a fourth less than that of 1956 and also substantially below the 1949-55 average. In most years kraut processors make relatively large purchases of cabbage from open market supplies. These purchases supplement tonnage from contract acreage, and usually can be used to help bring the pack into better balance with anticipated requirements.

Snap Beans

Fresh: Acreage and crop conditions in early April point to a crop of 498,000 hundredweight of snap beans for early spring harvest. This crop, produced largely in Florida, is moderately larger than the record small crop

of 1956 which resulted from adverse weather, but is 18 percent below the 1949-55 average. Mid-spring production, which is about two-thirds as large as that of early spring, is also expected to be larger than that of 1956. But overall supplies will still be materially below the 1949-55 average, and prices are expected to be moderately to substantially above average.

No acreage or production estimates are available for the late spring and subsequent crops. However, the Department in its acreage marketing guide recommends an increase of 5 percent in acreage of snap beans for late spring harvest, and the same acreage as in 1956 for summer, early- and late fall harvests. Recommended acreages with average yields would result in moderately more beans in late spring than a year earlier, slightly fewer in the summer, and at least moderately fewer in early- and late fall.

Processed: Indications are that stocks of canned snap beans are moderately smaller than the near record level of a year ago, but almost double the 1949-55 average. Stocks of frozen beans on April 1 amounted to 48.4 million pounds, 5 percent more than a year earlier. Prices to packers in the early part of the season were a little below year earlier levels. But movement has been good and f.o.b. prices of canned beans have moved up to or near year ago levels.

Intentions reports, as of early April, indicate that packers plan to plant or contract a 7 percent larger acreage of snap beans for processing than last year. The prospective acreage for canning is 8 percent larger than in 1956, and the acreage for freezing 3 percent larger. Yields near the 1952-56 average, on the indicated acreage, would result in a production slightly below that of 1956, when yields were unusually high.

Sweet Corn

Fresh: During the last half of winter, sweet corn mostly from Florida moved to market in considerably heavier volume than a year earlier, and at substantially lower prices. However, volume in April was below that of a year earlier, and indications are that during the next few weeks movement is likely to continue lighter than last year. Production from the important early spring crop is estimated at 2.4 million hundredweight, a fifth less than the heavy output of a year ago but 17 percent above the 1949-55 average. No acreage or production estimates are available for the less important late spring crop or for subsequent crops. The acreage guide, published in November suggests a 10 percent larger acreage of corn for late spring harvest with the objective of 15 percent more tonnage. The guide suggests a 5 percent increase in acreage for early- and late summer harvests, and a 10 percent reduction in acreage for fall harvest in Florida and the same acreage as in 1956 in California. Yields near the average of recent years and normal abandonment on the suggested acreage would result in less corn for summer harvest than last year, but much

more for fall harvest than the light volume last year when the fall crop was seriously damaged by weather.

Processed: Acreage of sweet corn for processing in 1956 was about average, but yields were unusually high. The resulting production and pack were the largest of record. Despite light carryover stocks, 1956-57 supplies of both canned and frozen corn were about 50 percent larger than the small supplies of the preceding season, and substantially above the 1949-54 average. Due to concerted industry promotions, including attractive price tags at the retail level, the movement of corn has been extremely heavy. In recent weeks the corn market has firmed with the upturn largely in the institutional sizes. However, indications are that carryover of processed corn at the end of the current season will be much larger than a year earlier, and substantially above the 1949-55 average.

Intentions reports indicate that processors are likely to plant and contract a slightly smaller acreage of sweet corn for processing this year than last. Indicated acreage for canning is down 3 percent, and that for freezing down 2 percent. Acreage for freezing represents less than 15 percent of total acreage for processing. Yields and abandonment near the average of recent years, on the indicated acreage, would result in a production almost a fifth less than in 1956 and slightly less than the 1949-55 average.

Tomatoes

Fresh: Supplies of tomatoes for fresh market sale were somewhat larger during the first three months of 1957 than a year earlier. Production of tomatoes in Florida was moderately larger this winter than last, and imports from Mexico and Cuba have been substantially larger. Prices through March averaged substantially below the high level of a year earlier. During the first half of April, however, shipments have been lighter than those of 1956, and prices higher. Indications are that supplies during the next 4 to 6 weeks will continue smaller than those of a year ago and prices higher. Indicated production of the important early spring crop is down 29 percent from a year earlier largely because of sharp cuts in acreage in Florida and Texas and damage from heavy rains in Florida. No acreage or production figures are available for late spring or subsequent crops. The acreage marketing guide suggests a 15 percent increase from 1956 in acreage for late spring harvest, a 20 percent cut in early summer acreage in California and the same acreage in other States. The guide also suggests the same acreage for late summer and 15 percent less acreage for early fall; and for late fall the guide recommends 10 percent less acreage in Florida and the same acreage in Texas. If yields and abandonment should be near the average of recent years on the suggested acreage, production would be up 5 percent in late spring from that of a year earlier, down 8 percent in early summer, and up 5 percent in late summer; tonnage in early fall would be 1 percent less, and in late fall 16 percent more than in 1956.

Processed: Due to a sharp acreage increase in California and very high yields in important states, production of tomatoes for processing in 1956 and the pack of tomatoes and tomato products combined were record large. Despite smaller carryover stocks at the beginning of the 1956 pack year, supplies in the 1956-57 season were the largest ever, and more than a fourth above those of the previous season. Movement has been and is expected to continue moderately to substantially above the high rate of last season. Nevertheless, supplies are still heavy and carryover of all important items at the end of the current season are expected to be much larger than either those of a year earlier or the 1949-55 average.

Intentions reports in early April indicate that packers plan to plant or contract about 11 percent less acreage of tomatoes for processing this year than last. Yields near the 1953-56 average on the intended acreage, would result in tonnage substantially below that of last year, but significantly above that suggested by the Department.

Green Peas

Processed: The 1956 canned pack of green peas was moderately larger than the 1955 pack, and carryover stocks were slightly larger. Despite a little better rate of outmovement this season, canners' stocks on March 1 were about 860,000 cases, No.2 equivalents, or 10 percent larger than last year. However, carryover stocks a year ago were relatively light, and by the end of the current season, stocks of canned peas are not expected to be burdensome. On the other hand stocks of frozen peas on April 1 were more than twice as large as those of a year ago, and prospects are for a much larger carryover.

Reports from canners and freezers, in early March, indicate that total acreage of green peas for commercial processing is likely to be 3 percent smaller this year than last, with the biggest regional reduction in the West where a large portion of the crop is produced for freezing. Prospective acreage for canning is up 2 percent from 1956, but acreage for freezing, which represents a little more than a fourth of the total, is down 14 percent. Yields near the average of recent years on the indicated acreage would result in a production about a sixth less than in 1956, but a little above the 1949-55 average. Production at this level, with prospective carryover, would be about in line with anticipated requirements.

Spinach

Processed: Indications are that the canned pack of spinach in 1956 was somewhat larger than that of the previous year, but the frozen pack was moderately smaller. Stocks of canned spinach were also a little larger so

that supplies have been heavier this season than last. Movement of canned spinach since March 1, 1956 has been better than a year earlier, but remaining stocks are still larger than last year or the 1949-55 average. Stocks of frozen spinach on April 1 were substantially larger than the light stocks of a year earlier, and moderately above the 1952-55 average.

Reports indicate a prospective production of 78,500 tons of spinach for canning and freezing from the winter crop in Texas and the early spring crop in California. This is about 10 percent more than the 1956 production and a third above the 1949-55 average. These two crops typically account for about half of the annual production for processing. Thus, it seems that the increased tonnage could have serious implications for spinach packers. The acreage-marketing guide has suggested a 1957 acreage 5 percent less than in 1956, with the objective of 13 percent less production.

Cucumbers

For Pickles: Reports in early April indicate a prospective acreage of cucumbers for pickles 10 percent larger than a year earlier. Yields equal to the 1955-56 average and normal abandonment of 8 percent, on the intended acreage would result in a production slightly larger than in 1956 and moderately above that suggested in the acreage-marketing guide.

Beets

For Canning: Intentions reports indicate a 7 percent smaller acreage of beets for canning this year than last. Yields near the 1953-56 average, on the indicated acreage, would result in a production materially below the heavy output of 1956, but moderately to substantially above that suggested in the acreage-marketing guide.

POTATOES

Short-term Prospects

Indications are that more potatoes will be available for market this spring than a year earlier. Storage stocks of fall crop potatoes on March 1, together with subsequent data on shipments indicate that supplies of old crop potatoes are materially larger than a year ago and above average. Acreage of early spring potatoes is up more than a fifth, with indicated production up about 7 percent from a year earlier and 39 percent above average. The effect of larger acreage is minimized by lower prospective yields this year. Acreage of potatoes for late spring harvest is also up moderately. Indicated acreage of potatoes for early summer harvest is moderately larger than in 1956,

but substantially smaller than the 1949-55 average. If yields should be near the average of recent years, production on the indicated acreage would be moderately smaller than last year and below average.

Demand for potatoes appears to be about the same as a year ago. However, with heavier supplies available, prices during the past 2 months have averaged moderately to materially below those of a year earlier. Barring serious weather damage in important producing areas, prices into early summer are expected to continue below those of 1956.

The Longer-term Outlook

Little Change in Acreage: Early March intentions reports indicate that growers in the 33 late summer and fall States are likely to plant about 2 percent less acreage of potatoes than in 1956. These figures are based on past relationships between intentions reports and acreage actually planted.

Indicated acreage is down from 1956 in all sections of the country, except the West. In the 8 Eastern States intended acreage is down 2 percent, with a moderate cut in New York State accounting for much of the decline. Acreage in Pennsylvania is expected to be down slightly, with indicated acreage in Maine the same as in 1956. Prospective acreage in the 10 Central States is 3 percent smaller than last year with most of the decrease in Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, and Wisconsin. One State, Ohio, indicated a slight increase in acreage. Plantings in the 5 Atlantic States, producing principally for late summer harvest, promise to be down 6 percent from a year earlier. In this region, indications are that planted acreage will be the same as in 1956 in Virginia, but moderately smaller in New Jersey, Maryland, West Virginia, and North Carolina. Intended planting in the 10 Western States is 1 percent larger than in 1956, with a moderate increase in Idaho more than offsetting moderate decreases in Colorado and Washington, and a slight decrease in Oregon. Acreage in California is expected to be the same as last year.

Production Probably Will Prove Burdensome: If producers of potatoes for late summer and fall harvest stick close to March 1 planting intentions, potatoes are again likely to be in surplus supply. The indicated acreage with 1952-56 average yields would result in a production of 180 million hundred-weight for late summer and fall harvest. This is about 20 million hundred-weight less than 1956 production and slightly below the 1949-55 average. But such a production would still be about 9 million hundredweight more than recommended in the acreage-marketing guide. Supplies at this level would weigh less heavily on the market than the large supplies in late 1956 - early 1957. But even so, potatoes would be in moderate surplus, and prices to farmers probably would be below the 1949-55 average.

More Fall Crop PotatoesDiverted to Starch
and Feed

Diversions of 1956 crop potatoes to starch and livestock feed, under the Section 32 Program, are running well ahead of the rate for last season. Through April 20 of this year, 13.7 million hundredweight of potatoes had been diverted under the Program, 3.5 million hundredweight more than the total diverted last season, and 4.1 million hundredweight more than through April 14 last year. Of the total diverted this season, more than two-thirds of those going into starch were eligible for supplementary payments, while about half of those used for livestock feed were eligible. Heaviest diversions to starch occurred in Maine and Idaho, with the largest diversions for livestock feed in Oregon and Washington.

Changes in Regulations
Affecting Foreign Trade

United States foreign trade in potatoes is small relative to production and is conducted principally with Canada. Recent changes in the terms of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade will tend to further limit or restrict potato trade between the United States and Canada. Canada has changed her restrictions to provide for a year-round duty of 37.5 cents per hundredweight on all imported potatoes, except that "new crop" potatoes will be granted continued free entry during the period January 1-June 14. Previously, imports into Canada were duty free except during the period June 15 to July 31, when the rate of duty was 37.5 cents per hundredweight.

The United States will also modify its concessions on potato imports. The existing 1.50 million hundredweight low-duty quota for seed potatoes will be reduced by 360,000 hundredweight to 1.14 million hundredweight; the 600,000 hundredweight low-duty quota for table stock potatoes will be reduced by 240,000 hundredweight, to a new level of 360,000 hundredweight. For the new quotas, the import duty remains 37.5 cents per hundredweight. In any year the quota may be increased by the amount the United States estimated production, as of September 1, is below 210 million hundredweight; but the tariff on imports over the original quota is 75 cents per hundredweight.

SWEETPOTATOES

Movement and Price
of the 1956 Crop

Movement of sweetpotatoes into consumption channels held up well through March. Despite a 19 percent smaller crop in 1956, total shipments through the winter were a little larger than a year earlier. In addition to the smaller production, quality has been good and prices received by farmers have been considerably above those of last season. The smaller remaining

supplies of 1956 crop sweetpotatoes are expected to continue to move at prices substantially above the corresponding months of 1956.

Intentions Indicate
Slightly Smaller
Acreage in 1957

Early March intentions reports indicate a continuation of the long-time downtrend in sweetpotato acreage and production. Intended plantings of 282,000 acres are 3 percent smaller than 1956 and a fourth below the 1949-55 average. Growers in Louisiana, which had about 30 percent of the acreage in 1956, plan to plant the same acreage as last year. Among other important States, North Carolina shows a moderate increase in expected plantings. The same acreage as in 1956 is indicated for New Jersey, Virginia, and California with moderate to substantial cuts in prospect in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas, and Tennessee. The difficulty in controlling the sweetpotato weevil in these latter States appears to be an important factor contributing to the long-time downtrend in acreage.

Production and Price
Prospects for the
1957-58 Season

If growers stick close to intentions reports, 1951-55 yields by States would result in a production of 15.2 million hundredweight of sweetpotatoes in 1957. This would be the smallest output of record, about 10 percent below both that of 1956 and that recommended in the Department's acreage-marketing guide.

The smaller prospective production, however, is not expected to result in unusually high prices for this crop. During the past few years, there has been a continuing decline in demand accompanied by the sharp decline in production. A crop no larger than presently indicated probably would result in prices to farmers averaging moderately to substantially above those of 1956-57. But it is doubtful if prices would be above 1949-55 average levels.

DRY EDIBLE BEANS

No Significant Change
in Indicated Acreage
in 1957

The March 1 intentions report indicates that growers plan to plant 1,466,000 acres of dry beans for 1957 harvest, fractionally more than in 1956 but 12 percent less than the 1946-55 average. Increased plantings were indicated for the Northeast, with a 5 percent larger acreage in Michigan, the leading producer of pea beans. Prospective acreage in New York, leading producer of red kidney beans, is down 10 percent.

Intended acreage in the Northwest, leading area in the production of small red and great northern types, is down 3 percent from a year earlier. In this group, a moderate increase in Wyoming, is more than offset by a substantial decrease in Idaho and a slight decrease in Washington State. Indications are that acreage in the Southwest, the principal pinto area, will be down 5 percent from 1956. In this region, moderate cuts in the important States of Colorado and New Mexico more than offset a prospective increase in Utah. In California, total indicated acreage of limas is the same as last year, while the relatively small acreage of "other dry beans", principally blackeye, pink and small white is up 8 percent. Total intended acreage in California is just slightly larger than in 1956.

Remaining 1956 Crop Supplies

More Than Ample, Prices Near Those of a Year Ago

The support rate on dry beans has been lowered sharply over the past few years in an attempt to bring production into balance with domestic and normal export requirements. Although substantially smaller than the record crop of 1948 and 1949, production of dry beans in most recent years has continued to exceed normal market requirements.

Production in 1955 amounted to 16.6 million 100-pound bags (cleaned basis). About $3\frac{1}{2}$ million bags of this crop were placed under price support, 1.8 million bags of which were delivered to the CCC. Although farmers cut acreage 6 percent in 1956, yields were up, and production was 17.1 million bags. The average national support rate for 1956 crop beans is \$6.31 per hundred pounds, substantially the same as a year ago. Prices compared with a year earlier have varied by classes, with the smaller supplies of pintos, pinks and blackeyes bringing higher prices, and the larger supplies of pea and red kidney beans selling lower this season than last. But taken as a whole, supplies appear more than ample, and overall prices received by farmers have averaged about the same as in the preceding season. Again substantial quantities of beans, mostly pea and red kidney, were placed under Government loan. Apparently in States where loans matured on February 28, about 2 million hundredweight of 1956 crop beans had been delivered to CCC compared with about 750,000 hundredweight a year ago. But much lighter deliveries are expected in those States in which loans mature on April 30.

Prospects for 1957-58

Crop Year

Indications are that domestic consumption will be smaller in the 1956-57 season than a year earlier but exports are expected to be at least as large as last season. Carryover at the end of the current marketing season is likely to be moderately to substantially smaller than a year earlier.

If farmers stick close to the intentions report and yields by States are near the 1951-55 average, production of dry beans in 1957 would amount to about 15.8 million 100-pound bags (cleaned basis). This would be about 8 percent smaller than the output in 1956 and slightly below the 1946-55 average. Such a production with expected carryover stocks would result in 5 to 10 percent smaller supplies in 1957-58 compared with the current season. But supplies would be ample to meet expected domestic and normal export requirements. Further, planting intentions reports indicate that planting of pea beans in Michigan will be larger than last year, and that this class is likely to continue in heavy surplus in the 1957-58 season.

The Department in late March announced 1957-crop support prices for 11 classes of dry beans. The support prices for pea beans and great north-erns are lowered 9 cents and most other classes are lowered 4 cents per hundred pounds. Support rates for small and flat small white beans are 21 cents per hundred pounds higher than for the 1956 crop. Because of shifts in production toward those classes with the higher levels of support, the national average support price for the 1957 crop is \$6.31 per hundred pounds, the same as for the 1956 crop. If the anticipated supply situation materi-alizes, overall prices for the 1957-58 season are likely to average the same to a little higher than those of 1956-57.

DRY FIELD PEAS

Remaining Supplies From Large 1956 Crop Causing Price Difficulties

Because of a substantial increase in acreage and above average yields last year, 1956 production of dry peas amounted to 4.7 million 100-pound bags. This was almost double the small 1955 crop and more than 50 percent above the 1950-55 average. The domestic market appears to be taking sub-stantially larger quantities of peas this season than last, when supplies were tight. Also, during the first half of the season exports were up sharply from a year earlier or average levels. These increased exports had been anticipated because of a poor crop in the Netherlands, and were an important factor in holding prices at reasonably high levels in the first part of the season. During the July-December period, prices to producers averaged \$4.56 per hundredweight, only \$1.41 below the high levels of a year earlier, and slightly above the 1950-55 average.

During the last 2 or 3 months, however, export business has declined sharply, and remaining supplies have weighed heavily on the domestic market. Prices received by farmers in mid-March averaged \$3.51 per hundredweight, \$3.96 below mid-March 1956, and \$1.41 below the 1950-55 average. Supplies available for the remainder of the current season are much larger than the tight supplies of a year ago, or average.

Prices received by farmers for peas during the rest of the season are expected to continue at relatively low levels. Carryover at the end of the current marketing season is likely to be substantially larger than the light carryover of the past 2 seasons, or average.

Slight Acreage Reduction
Planned in 1957

Farmers' intentions in early March indicated the probability of a 1957 planted acreage of dry peas 2 percent smaller than in 1956, but significantly larger than the 1950-55 average. Intended acreage is down moderately from a year earlier in the two largest producing States, Washington and Idaho. But these reductions are partly offset by increases in Colorado, Minnesota, North Dakota, and Oregon.

No production estimate is made until July. However, yields near the 1951-1955 average, by States, on the intended acreage would result in an output of 3.7 million 100-pound bags (cleaned basis), about a fifth smaller than in 1956, but materially above the 1950-55 average.

Relatively Low Prices
Likely In 1957-58 Season

Demand for dry peas in this country is expected to be about the same in the 1957-58 marketing year as in the current season. Consumption for food generally amounts to one-half to two-thirds of a pound per person, with total food requirements seldom exceeding 1.0 million bags. As usual, substantial quantities of dry peas will be used in planting the green pea crops, and sizeable quantities probably will be exported. But barring a short 1957 crop in Europe, United States exports are likely to be substantially smaller in 1957-58 than in the current season.

In balance, the larger expected carryover and the 1957 prospective production would result in supplies in the 1957-58 season only moderately smaller than the large supplies available in the current season. With export demand expected to be less than in the current season, prices for 1957 crop peas would be expected to average below those of either the 1956-57 season or the 1950-55 average.

Table 2.- Truck crops, potatoes and sweetpotatoes: Unloads at 19 markets, indicated periods, 1956 and 1957

(Expressed in carlot equivalents)

Commodity	1956						1957					
	January			February			January			February		
	Rail, boat, and air	Truck Imports	Total	Rail, boat, and air	Truck Imports	Total	Rail, boat, and air	Truck Imports	Total	Rail, boat, and air	Truck Imports	Total
Asparagus	---	---	---	27	---	27	---	3	---	3	44	---
Beans, lima, snap and fava	117	313	26	456	87	262	4	353	155	281	108	544
Beets	11	94	---	105	15	42	1	58	37	27	64	56
Broccoli	194	179	---	373	164	210	---	374	230	121	---	351
Brussels sprouts	35	17	---	52	10	6	---	16	72	51	---	123
Cabbage	897	1,609	75	2,581	922	1,553	13	2,488	546	1,437	---	1,983
Cantaloups and other melons 1/	1	---	15	16	1	---	94	95	---	53	53	---
Carrots	662	703	15	1,380	916	798	---	1,714	728	808	---	1,536
Cauliflower	817	452	---	1,269	420	424	---	844	654	499	---	1,153
Celery	1,523	1,234	---	2,757	1,512	1,353	---	2,865	1,026	1,421	---	2,447
Corn	127	127	---	254	102	91	---	193	94	135	6	235
Cucumbers	45	309	166	520	40	110	355	505	75	322	202	599
Escarole and endive	85	227	---	312	48	261	11	320	70	252	---	322
Lettuce and romaine	3,126	1,919	---	5,045	2,541	1,778	---	4,319	2,255	2,090	1	4,346
Onions, dry	953	1,296	37	2,286	847	1,013	63	1,923	622	1,364	31	2,017
Onions, green 2/	61	195	---	256	58	182	---	240	31	186	1	218
Peas, green	12	111	59	182	3	18	103	124	1	6	81	88
Peppers	242	264	92	598	221	408	58	687	188	357	120	665
Spinach	180	176	---	356	291	191	---	482	264	152	7	423
Other cooking greens	97	753	1	851	97	701	---	798	117	714	---	831
Squash	11	368	9	388	8	316	6	330	7	355	11	373
Tomatoes	781	1,793	396	2,970	472	1,161	610	2,243	571	1,388	743	2,702
Turnips and rutabagas	3	226	244	473	2	258	166	426	3	261	185	449
Watermelons	---	2	1	3	---	---	12	5	1	5	11	1
Other vegetables (including mixed)	1,458	1,081	99	2,638	1,278	972	81	2,331	1,460	1,040	128	2,628
Total above	11,138	13,448	1,235	26,121	10,055	12,135	1,577	23,767	9,211	13,271	1,682	24,164
Potatoes	7,783	3,753	68	11,604	7,001	3,488	141	10,630	5,952	4,114	13	10,079
Sweetpotatoes	132	1,105	5	1,242	123	1,070	18	1,211	59	956	10	1,025
Grand total	19,353	18,306	1,308	38,967	17,179	16,693	1,736	35,608	15,222	18,341	1,705	35,268

1/ Except watermelons.

2/ Includes shallots, chives cipollines, leeks, scallions, and green onions.

Markets include: Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Dallas and Fort Worth, Denver, Detroit, Kansas City (Missouri), Los Angeles, New Orleans, New York, Oakland (California), Portland (Oregon), Philadelphia, St. Louis, San Francisco, Seattle, and Washington, D. C.

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Table 3.- Vegetables, fresh: Representative prices (l.c.l. sales) at New York and Chicago for stock of generally good quality and condition (U. S. No. 1 when available), indicated periods, 1956 and 1957

Market and commodity	State of origin	Unit	Tuesday nearest mid-month					
			1956			1957		
			Mar. 13	Apr. 10	Jan. 15	Feb. 12	Mar. 12	Apr. 9
New York:								
Beans, snap, green, Valentine	Florida	Bu. bskt.	3.84	4.80	5.31	7.40	6.50	3.60
Beets, bunched	Texas	$\frac{1}{2}$ WGA crt.	2.75	2.85	2.90	3.00	3.00	3.58
Broccoli, bunched	California	14's, small crt.	3.19	3.78	3.21	2.75	2.90	2.75
Cabbage: Domestic, Round type	Florida	1-3/4 bu. crt.	1.98	2.25	2.31	2.38	3.06	2.35
Carrots:								
Bunched	California	4 doz. pony crt.	1/ 5.16	1/ 5.00	4.38	3.98	3.62	3.90
Topped, washed	California	48-1 lb. film bag						
		crt.	4.50	4.32	4.36	4.00	3.88	3.70
Topped, washed	Texas	48-1 lb. film bag						
		crt.	3.30	3.40	3.96	3.47	3.63	3.35
Cauliflower	California	WGA crt. 18's	4.75	4.83	---	5.62	4.85	4.25
Celery								
Golden Heart	Florida	16-in. crt.	3.44	5.07	3.88	4.36	6.50	3.40
Pascal	California	16-in. crt.	4.88	5.54	6.25	6.00	4.13	5.25
Cucumbers	Florida	Bu. bskt.	6.90	3.75	6.25	7.00	8.45	5.50
Eggplant	do.	Bu. bskt.	---	2.13	2.78	2.75	2.50	1.90
Escarole	do.	1-1/9 bu. crt.	1.84	1.51	2.19	1.94	1.60	1.63
Lettuce, Iceberg	Florida	2-dozen. crt.	3.00	2.50	2.94	4.50	3.40	2.63
Onions:								
Yellow, medium	New York	50-lb. sack	1.62	1.00	---	1.86	1.52	2.00
Yellow, medium large	Idaho	50-lb. sack	3.01	---	3.75	4.25	3.13	---
Peppers, green	Florida	Bu. bskt.	8.50	3.90	3.25	3.85	4.62	8.00
Spinach, Savoy	Florida	Bu. bskt.	1.88	1.44	2.10	2.09	2.20	1.25
Tomatoes, green ripe	Florida	6x6 60-lb. crt.	---	6.60	8.44	6.20	3.71	8.99
Chicago:								
Beans, snap, green, Valentine	Florida	Bu. bskt.	3.75	4.50	4.25	7.00	6.00	4.25
Beets, bunched	Texas	$\frac{1}{2}$ WGA crt.	2.50	2.65	2.90	2.75	2.65	2.75
Broccoli	California	14's, small crt.	2.70	3.35	2.75	2.65	3.00	2.00
Cabbage: Domestic, Round Round type	Florida	1-3/4 bu. crt.	2.15	2.50	2.35	2.35	3.20	2.75
Carrots:								
Bunched	California	4 doz. pony crt.	1/ 5.00	1/ 4.25	3.70	---	3.65	3.85
Topped, washed	Illinois	50-lb. sack	1.75	---	1.00	.90	.90	1.25
Celery								
Golden Heart	Florida	16-in. crt.	4.50	5.50	---	---	6.50	3.75
Pascal	California	16-in. crt.	4.15	5.35	5.75	5.00	4.00	4.50
Cucumbers	Florida	Bu. bskt.	7.75	4.00	6.25	7.50	8.50	5.00
Eggplant	do.	Bu. bskt.	7.25	2.15	2.90	2.70	2.75	2.85
Lettuce, Iceberg, dry pack	California	2 doz. head crt.	2.85	---	3.15	3.10	2.25	2.60
Onions:								
Sweet Spanish	Idaho	50-lb. sack	2.50	---	3.55	3.95	2.70	---
Yellow, medium	Illinois	50-lb. sack	.62	.40	1.30	1.55	1.20	1.70
Peppers, green	Florida	Bu. bskt.	8.50	4.40	4.00	4.25	5.75	9.00
Spinach, flat type	Texas	Bu. bskt.	1.70	---	1.90	1.40	1.85	---
Tomatoes	Florida	60 lb. crt. 6x6	19.00	7.75	9.50	6.00	9.00	13.00

1/ 6 doz. WGA crate.

Table 4.- Vegetables, fresh: Average price per hundredweight received by farmers, United States, indicated periods, 1956 and 1957

Commodity	1956		1957		
	Feb. 15	Mar. 15	Jan. 15	Feb. 15	Mar. 15
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
Beans, snap	11.70	8.15	10.30	12.20	14.30
Broccoli	9.30	8.95	8.70	8.20	6.40
Cabbage	1.30	1.48	1.45	2.10	2.75
Carrots	2.90	2.20	2.85	1.55	1.40
Cauliflower	5.00	4.20	3.35	4.10	3.50
Celery	2.90	3.25	5.70	4.95	3.60
Corn, sweet	6.00	5.90	5.00	4.90	4.90
Cucumbers	9.40	9.40	6.90	8.00	10.40
Lettuce	3.50	3.80	5.20	3.45	2.50
Onions	1.90	1.80	2.00	2.80	2.70
Peppers, green	14.00	18.00	9.60	8.80	11.00
Spinach	7.75	5.75	7.70	6.90	4.10
Tomatoes	10.20	17.90	9.40	5.80	8.00
:	:	:	:	:	:

Table 5.- Vegetables for commercial processing: Prospective plantings, average 1946-55, annual 1956 and 1957

Crop	Planted acreage			1957 as a percentage of-	
	Average 1946-55	1956	Intended 1957	Average 1946-55	1956
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Percent	Percent
Asparagus	88,190	109,560	---	---	---
Beans, green, lima	103,160	105,770	---	---	---
Beans, snap	131,480	140,150	149,680	114	107
Beets for canning	17,520	21,350	19,840	113	93
Cabbage for kraut:					
Contract	9,340	10,030	8,900	95	89
Open market	7,810	6,660	---	---	---
Total for cabbage	---	16,690	---	---	---
Corn, sweet	483,570	474,380	461,800	95	97
Cucumbers for pickles	145,350	126,340	139,350	96	110
Peas, green	456,580	501,860	487,500	107	97
Spinach:					
Winter and early spring	14,690	13,400	13,900	95	104
Late spring and fall	24,610	24,840	---	---	---
Total for spinach	---	34,590	---	---	---
Tomatoes	390,710	353,200	313,350	80	89
Total, 10 crops	1,872,560	1,887,540	---	---	---
:	:	:	:	:	:

Table 6.- Vegetables, frozen: Cold-storage holdings,
March 31, 1957

Commodity	March	1956		1957	
	average	March	January	February	March
	1952-56	31	31	29	31 1/
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>
Asparagus	7,375	7,452	18,641	16,408	13,429
Beans, lima	62,934	65,603	97,841	85,479	77,131
Beans, snap	41,207	46,029	74,014	61,788	48,400
Broccoli	36,906	34,766	51,407	52,003	49,769
Brussels sprouts	17,309	15,286	28,925	26,542	23,449
Cauliflower	14,701	16,036	30,119	27,560	26,855
Corn, sweet	39,787	39,513	69,777	60,599	50,098
Peas and Carrots	2/	6,655	14,228	14,044	14,517
Peas, green	76,403	57,382	191,146	169,557	134,568
Potatoes, french fries	2/	33,167	48,280	57,660	69,086
Spinach	29,240	27,849	30,555	26,611	31,176
Mixed vegetables	2/	14,066	22,937	23,327	21,810
Other vegetables	111,834	86,574	109,348	100,035	93,830
Total	437,696	450,388	787,218	721,613	654,118

1/ Preliminary.

2/ Included in other vegetables.

Table 7.- Potatoes: Prospective plantings for 1957 season

Seasonal group	Average 1949-55			Acreage planted		
	Acreage	Yield		1956	Indicated	1957 as percent of 1956
	planted	per	planted	1956	1957	1957 as percent of 1956
		acre				
	1,000		1,000	1,000	1,000	
	<u>acres</u>	<u>Cwt.</u>	<u>acres</u>	<u>acres</u>	<u>acres</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Winter 1/ 2/	22.9	154.9	34.1	46.0	46.0	134.9
Early spring 2/	23.9	130.1	26.6	31.0	31.0	116.5
Late spring 3/	204.2	132.0	166.1	170.8	170.8	102.8
Early summer 4/	126.7	79.0	100.9	105.4	105.4	104.5
Late summer and fall 5/	1,155.6	158.5	1,084.0	1,067.6	1,067.6	98.5
Total, all seasons:	1,533.3	148.0	1,411.7	1,420.8	1,420.8	100.6

1/ Includes acreage planted in preceding fall.

2/ Acreage planted.

3/ Intended acreage for 1957 as of January 1.

4/ Intended acreage for 1957 as of February 1.

5/ Intended acreage for 1957 as of March 1.

Table 8.- Canned vegetables: Commercial packs 1955 and 1956 and cannery and wholesale distributors' stocks 1956 and 1957, by commodities, United States

Commodity	Pack			Stocks			
			Date	Canner 1/		Wholesale distributors 1/	
	1955	1956		1956	1957	Date	1956
Major commodities							
Beans, snap	1,000	1,000		1,000	1,000		1,000
Corn, sweet	cases	cases		cases	cases		cases
Peas, green	24/2's	24/2's		24/2's	24/2's		24/2's
Tomatoes							
Tomato juice 2/	23,371	23,982	Mar. 1	10,179	9,919	Jan. 1	3,027
	24,075	35,668	Mar. 1	11,690	16,131	Jan. 1	3,757
	27,376	29,248	Mar. 1	8,091	8,951	Jan. 1	3,175
	24,727	29,883	Jan. 1	10,879	16,312	Jan. 1	4,233
	26,911	43,552	Jan. 1	16,284	29,136	Jan. 1	2,928
Total	126,460	162,333		57,123	80,449		17,120
Minor commodities							
Asparagus	6,248	5,423	Mar. 1	1,656	1,673	Jan. 1	689
Beans, lima	2,806	3,395	Feb. 1	2,161	2,440	Jan. 1	556
Beets	7,493	9,765	Mar. 1	3,621	5,089	Jan. 1	1,000
Blackeye peas	1,836	N.A.		---	---		---
Carrots	1,902	2,855	Mar. 1	1,068	1,654	Jan. 1	426
Okra	419	327		---	---		---
Pickles	3/21,195	3/22,425		---	---		---
Pimientos	3/1,000	349		---	---		---
Pumpkin and squash	4,231	5,087	Dec. 1	2,267	N.A.	Jan. 1	723
Sauerkraut	3/8,678	3/13,149	Mar. 1	4/ 3,468	4/ 5,805	Jan. 1	972
Potatoes	2,707	N.A.		---	---		---
Sweetpotatoes	5,053	N.A.		---	---		---
Spinach	6,005	6,409	Mar. 1	1,220	1,575	Jan. 1	942
Other greens	2,502	2,224		---	---		---
Tomato products:							
Catsup and chili sauce	18,382	24,678	Jan. 1	10,615	16,805	Jan. 1	1,670
Paste	5/8,571	5/12,487	Jan. 1	6/3,220	6/5,619	Jan. 1	N.A.
Pulp and puree	4,287	6,158	Jan. 1	7/1,193	7/2,466	Jan. 1	869
Sauce	10,061	12,065	Jan. 1	6/6,184	6/9,331	Jan. 1	682
Vegetables, mixed	3,049	3,361	Jan. 1	---	---		---
Total, comparable minor items	106,829	130,157		34,406	52,457		8,529
Grand total Comparable items	233,289	292,490		91,529	132,906		25,649
							22,070

1/ Converted from actual cases to standard cases of 24 No. 2 cans by S&HR Branch of AMS.

2/ Includes combination vegetable juices containing at least 70 percent tomato juice.

3/ Crop for processing converted to a canned basis by applying an overall conversion factor (pickles 68, sauerkraut 54, and pimientos 29 cases equivalent to 1 ton fresh).

4/ Reported in barrels; converted to 24/2's by using 14 cases to the barrel.

5/ Estimated, basis California pack.

6/ Estimated, basis California stock.

7/ California only.

N.A. - Not Available.

Canners' stock and pack data from National Canners Association, unless otherwise noted.
Wholesale distributors' stocks from United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

Table 9.- Potatoes, winter and spring: Acreage, yield per acre, average 1949-55, 1956 and indicated 1957 1/

Seasonal group	Harvested acreage		Yield per acre		Production	
	Average	1956	Indicated	Average	Indicated	Average
1949-55	2/	1956	1956	1949-55	1956	1949-55
2/	2/	1957	2/	2/	1957	2/
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	CWT	CWT	CWT
Winter	22.6	33.8	44.0	156.6	155.6	146.5
Early spring	23.7	26.1	32.0	131.4	154.1	134.8
Late spring	201.7	165.9	173.9	133.8	146.7	---
						26,853
						24,330

1/ This acreage and production is later included in reports of total potatoes. 2/ Simple averages of annual data for the season.

Table 10.- Sweetpotatoes: Plantings, average 1949-55, annual 1956 and indicated 1957

Area	Acreage			Percent	
	Average	1949-55	1956	Indicated	1957 as percentage of 1956
	1,000 acres				
Central Atlantic 2/	38.1	36.9	36.9	36.9	100
Lower Atlantic 3/	114.0	72.5	70.0	70.0	97
South Atlantic 4/	211.7	166.5	159.9	159.9	96
North Central 5/	3.8	3.2	3.2	3.2	100
California	11.4	12.0	12.0	12.0	100
United States	382.0	291.1	282.0	282.0	96.9

1/ Indications as of March 1, 1957. 2/ New Jersey, Maryland and Virginia. 3/ North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. 4/ Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas. 5/ Missouri and Kansas. 6/ Assuming 1951-55 average yield by States, production from this prospective acreage would amount to 15.2 million hundredweight in 1957, compared with 16.9 million hundredweight in 1956.

Table 11.- Potatoes: Price f.o.b. shipping points and wholesale price at New York and Chicago, indicated periods 1956 and 1957

Item	Unit	Week ended							
		1956				1957			
		Feb. 11	Mar. 10	Apr. 7	Jan. 12	Feb. 9	Mar. 9	Apr. 6	
F.o.b. shipping points:									
New crop:									
Dade County, Fla., U. S. No. 1, Size A, Round Red 1/ 2/	100 lb. sack:	3.70	4.04	5.10	---	3.42	3.10	2.24	
Old crop:									
San Luis Valley, Colo., Red McClure 1/ 3/	100 lb. sack:	3.09	3.16	4.24	2.00	1.88	1.70	1.40	
Idaho Falls, Idaho Russet Burbank 1/ 4/ 5/	100 lb. sack:	3.14	2.85	3.45	2.42	3.30	2.21	1.91	
Arroostook County, Me., U. S. No. 1, Size A, Katahdin 2/ 6/	100 lb. sack:	1.90	2.10	2.46	1.92	1.58	1.56	1.36	
Hartford-Rockville Area, Conn., Katahdin 7/	100 lb. sack:	1.85	2.12	2.95	2.34	2.08	2.01	1.86	
Rochester, West and Central N. Y. Katahdin 6/	100 lb. sack:	8/2.53	8/2.53	8/3.33	1.16	1.03	.96	.90	
West Michigan, Mich., Katahdin, 2/ 5/	100 lb. sack:	2.20	2.46	---	2.04	1.96	1.72	---	
Terminal Markets:									
New York:									
New stock:									
Florida, Round Reds 2/	100 lb. sack:	5.84	5.76	7.08	5.24	5.00	4.70	4.24	
Old stock:									
Long Island, Katahdin 2/ 9/	100 lb. sack:	2.40	2.86	3.40	2.78	2.60	2.54	2.50	
Maine, Katahdin 2/ 6/ 9/	100 lb. sack:	2.84	3.24	3.50	3.02	2.78	2.72	2.80	
Idaho, Russet Burbank 1/ 2/ 7/ 9/	100 lb. sack:	5.24	5.26	5.76	4.74	4.70	4.64	4.40	
Chicago:									
New stock									
Florida, Round Reds 1/ 2/ 9/	100 lb. sack:	5.10	5.80	6.80	5.00	4.50	4.80	3.80	
Old stock									
Idaho, Russet Burbank 1/ 9/	100 lb. sack:	4.33	4.75	5.00	3.90	3.80	3.90	3.40	

1/ Washed.

2/ 50 pound price doubled.

3/ 2 1/8 inch minimum.

4/ 20-30 percent, 10 ounce and larger.

5/ Delivery sales shipping point.

6/ 2 1/4-4 inch minimum.

7/ 2 inch minimum.

8/ Various varieties.

9/ U. S. No. 1 Size A.

F.o.b. prices are the simple averages of the mid-point of the range of daily prices and are compiled from Market News Reports of AMS. Market prices are submitted Tuesday of each week by Market News representatives.

Table 12.- Sweetpotatoes: F.o.b. prices at Southern Louisiana points and representative market prices (l.c.l. sales) at New York and Chicago for stock of generally good quality and condition (U. S. No. 1, when available), indicated periods 1956 and 1957

Location and variety	Unit	Week ended							
		1956				1957			
		Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	
		11	10	7	12	9	9	6	
F.o.b. shipping points		Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
S. W. Louisiana points	50 pound								
Puerto Rican	crate	2.46	2.54	2.38	3.75	3.75	3.75	4.08	
		Tuesday nearest midmonth							
		1956				1957			
		Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	
		14	13	10	15	12	12	9	
Terminal markets									
New York									
New Jersey,	Bushel								
Jersey type	basket	2.80	2.50	2.30	3.25	3.62	3.50	4.50	
North Carolina,									
Puerto Rican	do.	3.70	3.58	3.32	4.31	4.22	4.18	4.40	
Chicago									
Louisiana,	50 pound								
Puerto Rican	crate	3.25	3.10	3.10	4.35	4.40	4.40	4.92	

F.o.b. prices are simple averages of the mid-point of the range of daily prices. Market prices are for Tuesday of each week and are submitted by Market News representatives to the Fruit and Vegetable Section of AMS.

Table 13.- Average price per hundredweight received by farmers for potatoes, sweetpotatoes, dry edible beans, and dry field peas, United States, indicated periods, 1956 and 1957

Commodity	1956		1957	
	Feb.	Mar.	Jan.	Feb.
	15	15	15	15
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
Field crops				
Potatoes	1.88	2.26	1.56	1.41
Sweetpotatoes	3.57	3.37	4.67	4.73
Beans, dry, edible	6.65	6.69	6.88	6.77
Peas, dry, field	7.27	7.47	4.05	3.61

Table 14.- Peas, dry, field: Prospective plantings for 1957 season 1/

State	Average 1946-55			Acreage planted	
	Acreage planted	Yield per acre	1956	Indicated 1957 2/	1957 as percentage of 1956
	1,000 acres	Pounds	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Percent
Minnesota	5	820	6	9	150
North Dakota	7	835	5	7	140
Montana	9	1,048	6	4	67
Idaho	103	1,139	150	142	95
Wyoming	4	1,278	5	4	80
Colorado	20	459	18	22	120
Washington	171	1,079	156	150	96
Oregon	14	776	8	10	125
California	12	1,046	7	7	100
Total United States	344	1,041	361	3/ 355	98.3

1/ In principal commercial producing States.

2/ Indication as of March 1, 1957.

3/ Assuming planted yield per acre, by States, equals the 1951-55 average, production from the prospective acreage would be 3.7 million 100-pound bags (cleaned basis), compared with 4.7 million bags produced in 1956.

Table 15.- Beans, dry, edible: Prospective plantings for 1957 season 1/

Group of States	Average 1946-55			Acreage planted	
	Acreage planted	Yield per acre	1956	Indicated 1957 2/	1957 as percentage of 1956
	1,000 acres	Pounds	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Percent
Maine, New York, Michigan	628	859	643	651	102
Nebraska, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Washington	321	1,482	282	274	97
Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah	393	593	257	243	95
California	322	1,313	278	293	105
Total United States	1,665	1,004	1,400	3/1,466	100.4

1/ Includes beans grown for seed.

2/ Indications as of March 1, 1957.

3/ Assuming 1951-55 average yields per planted acre, by States, production from this prospective acreage would amount to 15.8 million 100-pound bags (cleaned basis) in 1957, compared with 17.1 million bags produced in 1956.

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